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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4557

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 6960

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3345

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 5219

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8222

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
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SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OITP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - WTO

LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Monday morning included a GOJ plan to enact new legislation to prevent technology that could be used for military purposes from being transferred to terrorists and criminal groups.

"WTO Negotiations Should Not Be Allowed to Fail" The business-oriented Nikkei editorialized (11/26): "The prospects for strengthening the global free trade system have become uncertain, as WTO Director-General Lamy officially expressed his position last week of not seeking a basic agreement by the end of the year on the Doha Round trade liberalization talks.... Conflict between developed nations, including the US, Japan, and European countries, and developing nations, such as Brazil and India, especially over agriculture, is blocking progress in the negotiations.... If the WTO gives up on an agreement by year's end, there is no telling when the next opportunity will come. The Bush administration has been unable to cut farm subsidies, something that would be unpopular among farmers. It appears likely that substantive talks on the round will be postponed until after the US presidential election in November 2008. Many of the participants in the round have blamed the US for the impasse. The failure of the WTO talks, however, would hurt Japan more than the US...."

DONOVAN